

NOTES FROM THE:

Comptroller Officer Assignments

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I was hoping the theme of this article would be the changes to the Officer Assignment System (OAS). However, the changes have not been released. I'll address the OAS changes and impact in next quarter's article.

Captain Will Lorey attended the USAF/FM conference for me in December since I was knee deep in filling our 33 FM Commander positions coming open in 1998. During the conference, Will was asked what kinds of career broadening assignments can FM officers do. You've guessed it—career broadening will be the focus of this article.

Let me begin by discussing why an officer may want to pursue this type of assignment. All of you who have heard me speak or have called have heard me say "diversity is key to mission support officers". So, before I list the career broadening opportunities, let me drive home our FM opportunities. One can get plenty of diversity within the FM career field—and you should. We can be Commanders, Financial Services Officers (FSO), and Financial Analysis Officers (FMA) at base level. We can be Financial Managers in both budget and cost in AFMC supporting the acquisition and sustainment of weapon systems. We can serve in a host of staff jobs at all levels of command, e.g., SAF, MAJCOM, NAF, Joint, etc. Serving in different positions, different locations, and different levels of command clearly brings out diversity and growth in an officers record. If an officer has the right experience, we have several instructor positions within the FM community such as PMCS, Sheppard Schoolhouse, DSMC, AFIT, Acquisition Schools, etc.

The Air Force has several career broadening opportunities outside of the FM career field we can serve in to give us diversity. Here are the positions and AFSCs:

ROTC

- Asst Professor of Aerospace Studies (APAS)
 - Captains - 81T0
 - Master's Degree

- Professor of Aerospace Studies (PAS)
 - Lt Colonels - 91C0
 - PAS meets annual selection board

OTS

- Lts/Capts - 81C0
- Flight Commanders or Instructors

BMTS

- Major - 91C0 (Squadron/CC)
- Capt - 81T0 (Deputy Squadron/CC, Training Officer, Ops Officer)

PME Faculty

- Capt/Major/Lt Col - 81T0 and 82A0
- ACSC and AWC normally hire from graduating classes

Exchange Officers

- Capt/Major/Lt Col

- International/Interservice Exchange
- Provides exposure/awareness of foreign service/sister services by exchanging ideas and procedure
- Officer fully integrated into host service
- 130 International positions in 20 countries
- 57 Interservice positions

USAF Academy

- Capt/Major/Lt Col
- Faculty Instructors
- Athletic Staff
- Air Officers Commanding (AOCs)
- Prep School
- AFSCs: 81T0, 82A0, T61X, T62X, T33X
- Logistics Career Broadening Program
- Captain - Maintain 65 AFSC
- Rotate thru various directorates of Air Logistics Centers (FM, Contracting, Program Mgmt, Maintenance/Production, Supply, Transportation, etc.)

USAF Recruiting Service

- Captain - 83R0 (Operations/Resource Officers)
- Maj/Lt Col - 83R0 (Commander)
- Plans & Programs Officer (16RX) and Political-Military Officers (16PX)

- Joint/Non-Joint positions
- MAJCOM or higher level job
- Usually only Majors/Lt Cols
- Each requirement is unique

Wing/Installation level IG

- Lt Col positions - 87G0
- Excludes MAJCOM or higher levels
- Deputy Support Commander
- Lt Col positions - 30C0

All of the career broadening positions are advertised on the electronic bulletin board under the mission support officer assignments/career broadening opportunities. Some of the positions require application packages (outlined in the advertisement.) It goes without saying, our manning does not support having everyone at once serving outside the FM field. However, we typically can allow officers to career broaden one time to meet Air Force requirements in these other areas. Our policy is a FM officer must have at least two FM jobs under their belt before they career broaden. There are a variety of reasons for this but the driving factor is the officer is much more competitive getting a FM job after the career broadening assignment is over if they have the experience of two FM jobs versus one. Timing is everything in this business, so you need to work closely with your Supervisors, Directors and Commanders to determine if career broadening is the right thing to pursue for your individual career and when is the right time to do it.